

BRO. PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND - A SWANAGE SUCCESS!

This past month of June hosted what was to be the main event of my year as Southampton Circle President - my Presidential weekend in Swanage.



A President's weekend was quite a departure from the traditional President's Sunday. While considering my forthcoming year as Circle President, I wanted something a little different to mark my year in office. It was from memories of the wonderful provincial weekends enjoyed by Chris and me that a President's weekend was born: a couple of days in which brothers and wives could enjoy each other's company in pleasant surroundings. Swanage seemed a good choice, with its seafront vista of Old Harry Rocks, a heritage railway and an annual fish festival in June and, when internet surfing introduced me to the Purbeck House Hotel, I knew I had chosen the right venue for a Circle getaway. As always with these events, the organisation brought some moments when I felt more like jumping off the rocks rather than viewing them but it was all worth it to enjoy an excellent weekend with the dearest of friends.

I chose a relaxed itinerary which highlighted a variety of events that folks could choose to do, either alone or with a group. Saturday morning saw most of us opting for a leisurely amble through Swanage, enjoying the sea front. We also visited the nearby fish festival with its many stalls and fish demonstrations where I learned that fish doesn't come already battered!



The weather kindly ignored the pessimistic forecasts and gave us a warm and dry day. Around lunchtime, we congregated at the Swanage Steam Railway Station where a 'Battle of Britain' class train took us along a trip down



memory lane, to the days of steam. Yes, even I remember steam trains! After six miles of heritage track through beautiful countryside, we arrived at Corfe village for a cream tea in the beautiful setting of the distant Purbeck Hills and the nearby Castle. The silhouette of this ancient building seemed to constantly beckon, "come and walk around" and an adventurous few amongst us did just that!

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 30 August 2016 at the Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. There is no Council meeting in July.

AUGUST MEETING DETAILS

- **Circle meeting:** 7.30 pm on Monday 1 August 2016.
- **Venue:** Mercure Dolphin Hotel, 34-35 High Street, Southampton SO14 2HN.
- **Dress code:** Ladies' night. Jackets and ties.
- **July Welfare Officer:** John Farran (report at August meeting).
- **July Whisky donor:** Pat Feighery

JULY Meeting Statistics

Circle Strength	49
Present	29 (59%)
Apologies	20
No apologies	0
Visitors	0
Visiting gentlemen	0

BRO. PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND *continued*

A few of the weekend guests decided to do their own thing. Philip and Pat Crook enjoyed the steam train so much that they decided to stay on at Corfe and go to the end of the line at Norden. We had images of them riding up and down the heritage track for most of the day but the canny couple were in fact discovered back at Swanage Station enjoying a cream team in the buffet car cafe! John and Mary Berridge were probably the most energetic of the group, driving onto Studland Bay to enjoy a long walk in nature reserve surroundings. We were also delighted to be joined for the two days by Vera Smith and Margo Parker from the Portsmouth Circle. The two ladies were most entertaining and welcome additions to our party.



We regrouped for the last time at Sunday morning breakfast, followed by Mass. We joined parishioners at the Catholic church of the Holy Spirit & St. Edmund where Mass was celebrated by a young priest called Father Ralf. A wander around the town and a stop for coffee filled in the time until the carvery lunch at the hotel. Then it was time for our goodbyes as we departed for home.

As President's weekend came to an end, I happily reflected on how successful it had been and how much everyone seemed to have enjoyed it. For me personally, the best part of the two day event was the coming together at the end of each day for an evening meal in the hotel's Purbeck dining room. This oak panelled room, which was once a chapel to nuns, came alive with joyful conversation and laughter which later in the evening transferred to the comfortable coffee lounge. Without doubt, this was everything I had hoped it to be: the group sitting in a large circle, telling amusing anecdotes and reminiscing about the day's events; the enjoyment of being and sharing with each other; not alone but part of something bigger which is being a Catenian. The organisation of my President's weekend may not have had the best of beginnings but the weekend itself was the 'perfect calm' to the 'perfect storm', yielding precious time with 'perfect friends'.



*The Purbeck House Hotel,
91 High St, Swanage,
Dorset BH19 2LZ.
Tel: 01929 422872.
www.purbeckhouselouisalodge.com
When booking, please mention that
you are a Catenian.*

Bro. President Graham Palethorpe

*(Photos provided by Folkert Van Galen
and Dawn Harrison)*

THE PRESIDENT'S CHARITY LOTTERY: The lucky winners are:

1st prize: Andy Philpott (£70) 2nd prize: Anne Brady (£35)

JULY WHISKY DRAW: This July winner is David Palmer

JULY BIRTHDAYS: Congratulations to those who celebrate birthdays in July.

Pauline Wilson (3), Roger Lillie (4), Claire Lund Yates (7), Tony Wilson (9), Graham Palethorpe (10), Margaret Wysocki (13), George Wysocki (16), Folkert Van Galen (17) and Ann O'Neill (28).



FAWLEY REFINERY VISIT

Did you know that Fawley Refinery:

- covers 3,250 acres on Southampton Water?
- is the largest gas producer in Europe?
- provides 20 per cent of the UK's total refining capacity?
- provides 1 in 6 cars in the UK with fuel?
- processes up to 15 million tonnes of crude oil each day
- supplies both Heathrow and Gatwick with jet fuel via direct underground pipelines?



All these facts, and many more, were picked up by the representatives of the Southampton Circle during a visit to Fawley Refinery on a rainy afternoon. Bro. President Graham did extremely well in bringing this exclusive opportunity to the Circle as refinery visits are not only fully booked in advance but the visitor list is very selective. The visit began with an excellent presentation by a retired employee of Exxon Mobil who engaged everyone, even those who usually fall asleep at the first mention of anything technical or scientific! Then it was a hop aboard a coach for an in-depth tour around the Refinery itself.

Surprisingly, the first impact on the visitors was the 1½ mile green belt that borders the Refinery and is so close to nature that deer frequently visit it. The site was first developed in 1921 and the tour began with a visit to the old railway lines and trains that once provided transport around the plant. The site is now divided into streets and avenues which the bus used to take the group into the heart of the Refinery. The visitors were shown all different kinds of manufacturing plant for products refined from crude oil, the very high distillation columns that dominate the Refinery's skyline and the Seven Sisters, seven white spherical tanks for storing liquid petroleum gas. Everyone was particularly amazed by the spaghetti of pipes that sprawled around the entire plant and, at certain junctions, even created pipe bridges for transport to drive under. It was fascinating.



In his presentation, the tour guide had talked about the flares that burnt off excess gas to manage pressure in the plant; that two flares were the most that were usually ignited and that when all four were flaring, it was time to advise the authorities. As the coach encircled the plant, the visitors noticed one flare and then two, but by the time the tour was in its finale, there were three flares lighting up the cloudy skies and the group were quite relieved to be driven away from the main Refinery for a view of the marine jetty, at 1.5km long the largest independently owned port of its type in Europe!

Joking aside, the coach of visitors were at no time in any danger. Fawley's safety record and their ongoing commitment to the protection of the plant and the environment was a message that was continually endorsed by the guide. Exxon Mobil also contributes to the locality by supporting community projects financially and by providing manpower including a Links Schools programme with the 10 Fawley schools and 'Learning through Landscapes', a national school grounds charity, as well as sponsoring many other Hampshire initiatives. This Circle event was not only an entertaining afternoon but also an informative visit about a well-known feature along the Solent vista.

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- **PRESIDENT'S VISIT - WEYMOUTH CIRCLE:** Please note a change to last month's details. The Weymouth Circle now meets at 7.00 pm on the first Thursday of the month. Bro. President will therefore visit this Circle on Thursday 7 July. Our thanks go to Mike Hart of the Weymouth Circle for advising us of these changes.
- **CREAM TEA AT PASSFORD HOUSE HOTEL:** This scrumptious event will now take place on Saturday 23 July to enable working brothers and wives to take advantage of this scrumptious afternoon get together. See the Circle events diary for more details.
- **PROVINCIAL COUNCIL INVITATION:** The Provincial Council will be meeting at the Mercure Dolphin Hotel on Saturday 23 July. Southampton brothers and wives are invited to join the Mass at St. Joseph's at 6.15 pm and the dinner at the Dolphin afterwards. Please see the Circle Events page for more details.

CIRCLE EVENTS 2016/17

Thursday 7 July	PRESIDENT'S VISIT	7.00 pm: Weymouth Circle. (The Hix Academy, Weymouth College, Cranford Avenue, Weymouth DT4 7LQ.) Brothers' night/jacket & tie. Menu by celebrity chef, Mark Hix! <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend.</i>
Tuesday 19 July	LUNCH CLUB	1200 noon: The George & Falcon, Warnford, SO32 3LB. <i>Please let Bro. Secretary know if you wish to attend or if you require directions.</i>
Saturday 23 July	CREAM TEA	2.30 for 3.00 pm: Passford House Hotel, Mount Pleasant Lane, Lymington, SO41 8LS. A 16th manor house amid 9 acres of gardens. Afternoon cream tea £7.95/full cream tea £13.95. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend.</i>
Saturday 23 July	PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING	3.00pm: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. 6.15 pm: Mass at St. Joseph's (Mgr Vincent Harvey) followed by dinner at the Dolphin Hotel. <i>Please advise Bro. Secretary if you wish to attend</i>
Monday 1 August	CIRCLE MEETING & LADIES NIGHT	7.30 pm: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. Ladies' night. Jacket and tie. <i>Please advise Bro. Secretary if you wish to attend but are not on the regular dining list.</i>
Saturday 13 August	LASER CLAY PIGEON SHOOT	12.30 pm: Lunch at the Luzborough Arms, Romsey (optional). 3.00 pm: Green Lane, Ampfield, SO51 9BN. £12.50 pp. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend.</i>
Saturday 3 September	TANGMERE MUSEUM VISIT	Tangier Military Aviation Museum, Tangier, Nr. Chichester, West Sussex PO20 2ES.
Friday 18 November	MASS FOR DECEASED BROTHERS	Details to be advised by Bro. President. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend nearer the date.</i>
November	CHINESE NIGHT	Details to be advised by Bro. President. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend nearer the date.</i>
Monday 5 December	CHRISTMAS PARTY	7.30 pm: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton.
Wednesday 15 December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH CLUB	1200 noon: Keats Restaurant, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ. <i>Please let Bro. Secretary know if you wish to attend nearer the date.</i>
January 2017	NEW AGE CURLING	Details to be advised by Bro. President. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend nearer the date.</i>
February 2017	ITALIAN NIGHT AT KEATS	Details to be advised by Bro. President. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend nearer the date.</i>

AUGUST CIRCLE DINNER MENU

Green vegetable soup
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Pork loin steak with shallot gravy  
or  
Grilled fillet of sea bass  
or  
Tomato & basil risotto  
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Dark cherry cheesecake
or
Cheese platter
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*Please inform the Dining Officer,  
Bro. David Palmer, of your choice*

## BRO. SECRETARY JOINS THE OCTOGENARIAN CLUB!

Bro. Secretary may have thought he would succeed in keeping a landmark birthday a secret, but Circle spies can reveal that he hosted a family party to celebrate his 80th birthday at Bro. Daverio's Keats Restaurant on the actual day, 25 June, and a 'hooligans lunch' for local friends a few days later. Here, Bro. President says a few words to mark the occasion.



"On behalf of all the Circle, I must congratulate David Palmer on reaching a very young 80 years of age and take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work he does on all our behalf. He is the bedrock of this Circle, a magnificent Circle Secretary, Lunch Club organiser and Circle Dining Officer, as well as Provincial Charity Officer. Where does he find the time? But he does and without his help I would be a desperately poorly organised President of this Circle. David, thank you so much for all the hard work you do. I hope you enjoyed your special day. You deserve it!"

*Bro. President Graham Palethorpe*

### CIRCLE WELFARE

The Circle Welfare Officer reports as follows. Your prayers for these brothers and wives who are currently unwell would be much appreciated.

- Myra Andrade is still unwell.
- Paul Andrews is making a steady recovery.
- Dick Barber remains in a frail condition.
- Rita Forster still requires constant care at home.
- Joe Gleeson remains cheerful despite intensive pain management.
- Christine Grummit has returned home after a long spell in hospital.
- Mark Ingram (son of Michael) needs our prayers.
- Louise O'Shea is continuing to do well.
- Pat O'Neill is having difficulty walking at the moment.
- Kathleen Parker remains unwell.
- Valerie Summerton is continuing radiotherapy.
- Katie Smith's situation is unchanged.
- Pat Tomlins maintains a positive outlook but is still avoiding infections.

### IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the Circle brothers whose anniversaries occur this month:

- William Brown
- Tom Fraser
- Danny McNamara
- Nellie Payne
- William Russell



### DHAKA CIRCLE

It was resolved at the July meeting that Bro. Secretary should send greetings from the Southampton Circle to the Dhaka Circle following the recent anti-Christian disturbances in Bangladesh.

|                         |                   |               |                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| President               | Graham Palethorpe | 01489 780 910 | grahampalethorpe@gmail.com      |
| Vice President          | Pat Feighery      | 023 8076 0255 | pfeighery245@btinternet.com     |
| Provincial Councillor   | Daverio Matteucci | 023 8025 2744 | daveriomatteucci@googlemail.com |
| Secretary               | David Palmer      | 023 8063 0008 | drtpalmer@hotmail.com           |
| Dining Officer          | David Palmer      | 023 8063 0008 | drtpalmer@hotmail.com           |
| Treasurer               | Patrick Dobel     | 023 8077 3631 | pj.dobell@btinternet.com        |
| Membership Officer      | John Farran       | 023 8026 8184 | jfarran1@aol.com                |
| Publicity Officer       | Position vacant   | —             | —                               |
| Benevolent Fund Officer | Tony Wilson       | 023 8026 6617 | tonypaulwil@gmail.com           |

Southampton Catenian website: <http://www.southamptoncatenians.org>

President's Charity website: <http://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk>